

Commercial Walking Tours

CASCADE CAVE

TICKETS SOLD AT THE WELCOME CENTER,
VISITORS WILL BE GIVEN A TOUR TIME UPON PURCHASING
TICKETS AT WELCOME CENTER.

ALL TOURS BEGIN AT CASCADE CAVE.
LOCATED 3.6 MILES FROM THE WELCOME CENTER.
(Driving directions below.)
TRANSPORTATION IS NOT PROVIDED.

Cascade Cave is one of the largest caves to be found in Carter County. Visitors often remark on its large passageways and on the grandeur of its formations. The walking tour will bring visitors through the “heart” of the cave – Cascade Cave, through a cave collapse valley into North Cave, and before departing – over to a 30+ ft. underground waterfall. While on a tour visitors can hope to learn about the cave’s geologic formations, cave ecology, and some local history.

Daily: 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

WALKING DISTANCE

& DIFFICULTY: 3/4 mile with 225 stair steps, some stooping

DURATION: About 75 minutes

TEMPERATURE: 50-60 degrees (variable)

ADMISSION: \$10 —age 13 & up
\$ 6 —age 3-12 FREE—age 2 & under

DIRECTIONS TO CASCADE CAVE

Cascade Cave is appx. 3.6 miles from the Welcome Center. Leave main parking lot, turn left. At the park entrance turn right onto Rt. 182. In appx. 1.6 miles you will turn right onto Rt. 209. Cascade Cave parking lot will be located appx. 0.6 miles on the left.

Commercial Walking Tours

X CAVE

TICKETS SOLD AT THE WELCOME CENTER.
VISITORS WILL BE GIVEN A TOUR TIME UPON PURCHASING
TICKETS AT WELCOME CENTER.

ALL TOURS BEGIN IN FRONT OF THE WELCOME CENTER.

X Cave is comprised of two narrow, vertical joint-passageways. These passageways differ so that it seems as if you are walking through two separate geologic creations rather than a singular cave. While inside visitors will learn of the cave’s geologic formations, cave ecology, and some local history.

Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 9:30 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.

WALKING DISTANCE

& DIFFICULTY: About 1/4 mile with 75 stair steps, some stooping, narrow passages

DURATION: About 45 minutes

TEMPERATURE: 30-50 degrees (variable)

ADMISSION: \$ 8 —age 13 & up
\$ 5 —age 3-12 FREE—age 2 & under

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ◆ Guided cave tours are led by trained Interpretive Staff Members.
- ◆ Cave tours are unscripted, varying from one tour guide to the next. Topics generally covered include history, geology, cave ecology, etc.
- ◆ Conditions within each cave vary daily. To be best prepared visitors should dress according to the weather conditions outside. Most visitors prefer wearing a light jacket while on tours.
- ◆ Comfortable walking shoes with good tread are recommended. Avoid flip-flops and other low-tread shoes as some surfaces may be wet/slick.

Historic Walking Tours

SALTPETRE CAVE

TICKETS SOLD AT THE WELCOME CENTER.
ALL TOURS BEGIN IN FRONT OF THE WELCOME CENTER.

Saltpetre Cave is considered by many historians to be the site of the earliest industry in the area. The cave was used during the War of 1812 as a source of the major ingredient in making gunpowder. The site is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Discover a fascinating segment of Kentucky’s history as you take a step back in time over 200 years ago.

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 12:00p.m.-3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY: 11:15 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

SUNDAY: 12:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Check out our weekly activities schedule for special lantern tours

WALKING DISTANCE: 1/2 mile

DURATION: About 60 minutes

TEMPERATURE: 47-49 degrees (jacket recommended)

DIFFICULTY: 30 stairs leading into the cave, flat walking, some stoop-ing. The cave is dry and dusty, electrically lit.

ADMISSION: \$8—age 13 & up \$5—age 3-12 FREE—age 2 & under

GROUP SCHEDULING

Organizations with large groups of people (20+ individuals) may be able to schedule privately led cave tours or activities (Pending CDC guidelines) through the Office of Interpretation. Call us today at (606) 286-7009 to find out what activities we may be able to offer that will best suit the needs of your group.

Rates and availability will vary.

\$100 minimum for all private programming.

Lodging, dining, venue reservations, and other group scheduling needs can be met by our Group Sales Coordinator. Ph. (606) 286-7004



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BAT CAVE “Walking” Excursion

Bat Cave is the longest cave found within the park. It’s passages are undeveloped (no defined walking paths or handrails). Although named the “walking” tour participants will spend some time stooping, “duck-walking,” scrambling over rocks, and walking through knee deep water. Unlike the “next level” tour you will **NOT** be required to crawl on this route through the cave. In order to participate you **must** be at least 6 y.o. and an adult **must** accompany those under 16 y.o. Guardians will need to be present to sign waivers for children under 18 y.o.

- DURATION:** About 2.5 hours (includes prep and clean up)
- TEMPERATURE:** 50-60 degrees (variable)
- DIFFICULTY:** This is a fairly strenuous tour with about 2 miles walking, 40 yard “duck walk”, prolonged bent walking, slick/ uneven surfaces, up to knee deep water/ mud. *Not recommended for the faint of heart.*
- REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:** Closed-toe shoes with good tread.
- PROVIDED EQUIPMENT:** Helmet with headlamp.
- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:30 PM**
- ADMISSION:** \$20 (ages 6 and up)

“Next Level” Adventure Tours

Available by appointment (minimum of 10 people or \$300)

These tours are exactly as described—intended to introduce you to the “next level” of caving. Whether it is a small, dusty squeeze through Saltpetre Cave, or, a sloppy, muddy slide through Bat Cave—you’ll spend most of your time low to the ground exploring passageways only the bravest of adventurers tackle. In order to participate you **must** be at least 8 y.o. and an adult **must** accompany those under 16 y.o. Guardians will need to be present to sign waivers for children under 18 y.o.

DURATION: About 2.5 to 3 hours (includes prep and clean up)

DIFFICULTY: These are extremely strenuous tours which require good physical stamina. A large portion of your time inside these caves will be spent on your hands/ knees or in a bent position. You may encounter tight passageways, water/ mud, and traverse over slick/ uneven surfaces.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: Closed-toe shoes with good tread and a light under layer recommended.

PROVIDED EQUIPMENT: Helmets, headlamps, kneepads & coveralls for ages 13 & up. *Contact the Office of Interpretation for inquiries.*

ADMISSION: \$30/person

Self-Guided Caving

LAUREL & HORN HOLLOW CAVES

(SELF-GUIDED CAVE EXPLORATION)

PERMIT REQUIRED - PERMITS GIVEN OUT AT THE WELCOME CENTER

Laurel & Horn Hollow Cave systems are a self-guided cave exploration opportunity available at Carter Caves. To enter these caves, visitors must first obtain a permit (free) from the Welcome Center. Permits for Horn Hollow are available year-round, however, issuance is weather-dependent. Laurel Cave is also available as a self guided cave from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the same rules apply for both.

REQUIREMENTS: Visitors must have at least one other person in their group, wear closed-toe shoes, and provide their own working flashlight (cell phones cannot be used as a light source). More information available at the Welcome Center.

White-Nose Syndrome & Cave Tours

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a disease that is killing 70-100% of hibernating bats in infected caves. WNS does not have any effect on humans, livestock, or, pets, only hibernating bats. WNS was first noted in some caves across the park in February 2013.

REQUIRED POST-TOUR DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL

All CCSRP cave tour participants will be *required* to participate in a post-tour WNS decontamination procedure. This procedure will ensure that the bottom of both shoes of each participant are treated with a mixture of Woolite and water. This process has been proven to help prevent the spread of the spores which cause WNS.

NOTE: Please review these required post-tour procedures before the purchase of any cave tour tickets.

NO REFUNDS are issued for cave tour tickets.

NOTICE OF COVID PROTOCOL

All participants of cave tours are **REQUIRED** to wear masks while on cave tours.

CARTER CAVES STATE RESORT PARK CAVE TOUR SCHEDULE



SUMMER SCHEDULE

May 29 - August 15, 2021

Cave tour schedules always available online at **PARKS.KY.GOV**

Founded in 1946, Carter Caves State Resort Park is home to an expansive system of natural caves. Some of these caves are open to the public for viewing and exploration at various times throughout the year.

Look inside this schedule for tour descriptions, tour times, and prices!

Visitors may purchase cave tour tickets inside of the Gift Shop at the Welcome Center. Tickets are sold by day—there are no reservations or advance sales.

Cave tour tickets are non-refundable.

Carter Caves - Important Phone Numbers

Front Desk: (606) 286-4411

Office of Interpretation: (606) 286-7009

TOUR SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE